

REMARKS

Claims 33, 34 and 37-61 are pending, with claims 33, 46 and 51 being independent. Claims 33, 34 and 37-61 are rejected. Claim 33 has been amended to cure an antecedent basis problem with respect to "a display device." Claims 46 and 51 have been amended to further define "the testing area" by adding the limitation "which permits rapid authentication of the gaming chips," which is also recited in the last paragraph of claim 33. No new matter has been added. It is submitted that further consideration or search would not be required by these amendments to the claims. Entry of this Supplemental Response is respectfully requested.

Statement of Substance of Interview

Applicant thanks Supervisory Patent Examiner John Hotaling and Examiner Marcus Jones for their courtesies and their professional conduct during the personal interview of September 9, 2009. Applicant summarizes herein what transpired during the interview as follows.

During the interview, Applicant's representatives presented arguments based on those presented in the written Response filed on August 12, 2009. In the final Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Figure 2a of Gelinotte discloses a gaming table. Applicant's representatives pointed out that Figure 2a of Gelinotte merely discloses the antenna arrangement of a storage system for gaming chips, and thus Gelinotte does not disclose the gaming table having the features recited in claim 33. The Examiners agreed that Gelinotte does not disclose the gaming table recited in claim 33.

However, the Supervisory Patent Examiner asserted that the features recited in claim 33 are mere arrangements of known features in the art, except for the limitation "testing area." The Examiner suggested that an interrogator disclosed in Walker may teach the testing area. Applicant's representatives asserted that the interrogator has different structure and functionality from the testing area. The Supervisory Patent Examiner proposed Applicant's representatives to file a request for reconsideration with further arguments and/or definition with respect to the limitation "testing area."

As discussed during the interview, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections made in the final Office Action are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim 33 recites, in part, “comprising at least one gaming chip testing area” and “at least one test station including a communication unit adapted to exchange information with a memory of at least one gaming chip in said gaming chip testing area by an antenna device disposed at least one of on and in said tabletop, the communication unit being associated with a processing unit for processing information contained in said memory” and “wherein said gaming chip testing area comprises an anti-collision device for reading information from a batch of gaming chips placed in said testing area and said display device displays on said screen the total value of the batch of chips placed in said gaming chip testing area which permits rapid authentication of the gaming chips by comparison of the total value displayed with the value mentally calculated by an operator” (emphasis added).

Walker discloses a system for monitoring player behaviors with one or more sensors to determine if the player is potentially a problem gambler by tracking player movement, player betting patterns, facial expressions, physical clues, nonverbal clues, and the like.

Further, Walker, at paragraph [0065], lines 1-3, states as follows.

A plurality of interrogators 158 are associated with the table 130 and are designed to help track movement of chips 80 about the table 130. In particular, wager interrogator 158A may interrogate each wager area 150 to ascertain how much is being wagered by a particular player. Note that while only one wager interrogator 158A is shown, a wager interrogator 158A may exist for each wager area 150 on the table 130. In addition to wager interrogator 158A, each player position 144 may also be associated with a bankroll interrogator 158B, which interrogates the respective bankroll area 146 to ascertain how much money the player has available in her bankroll. (emphasis added).

As such, Walker's interrogators are designed to help track movement of gaming chips, to ascertain how much is being wagered by a particular player, and to ascertain how much money the player has available in her bankroll.

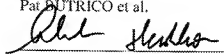
However, the testing area is configured for rapid authentication of the gaming chips as required by claims 33, 46 and 51. Additionally, the test station including the testing area has the distinguishing features in structures as recited above in claim 33, while the structures of the interrogators are not disclosed in Walker.

Thus, the interrogators do not teach or suggest the limitations regarding the testing area in structure or functionality.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and believed to be appropriate.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this matter, the undersigned may be contacted at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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